

Union County Local Emergency Planning Committee
December 13th, 2007

Chairman Bob Swisher welcomed attendees and called the meeting to order.

A motion was made by Karen Kirk, LEPC Media Coordinator, which was seconded by Patrick O'Brien, to approve the minutes of the November 8th, 2007 meeting as presented.

Stacy Rhodes, EMA Director, discussed the tabletop pandemic flu exercise which will be held January 22nd, 2008 at the Union County High School commons area at 6:00 p.m. The date of the tabletop exercise will need to be published in all local newspapers.

Mr. Rhodes also discussed the dates for "Storm Ready" weather spotting classes, which will be held January 8th and repeated on the 12th at 10:00 a.m. at the Union County Court House. These dates need to be published in all local newspapers. The "Storm Ready" class is for county first-responders and anyone else interested in learning about weather emergency situations.

Karen Kirk, LEPC Media Coordinator discussed the cost associated with printing brochures that could be distributed to all citizens regarding how to prepare for various emergency situations, and which would include emergency contact information and numbers. The cost for 1000 brochures from one particular source would be over \$900. Since the LEPC does not have a budget, Dr. Swisher suggested we get corporate sponsors to underwrite printing expenses. Other alternatives were discussed, such as obtaining free brochures from an agency such as TEMA (Bob Swabe agreed to check on this), or to download information from

the internet. Mrs. Kirk would like to have information ready for distribution before April, which is emergency preparedness month.

Dr. Swisher gave a report from the Tampa Clean Gulf Conference, which was held from November 14th through the 16th. The conference focused primarily on hazardous material spills, however there was one particular session for LEPC representatives to meet and exchange ideas and network with each other.

Dr. Swisher said that LEPCs develop individual characteristics that reflect the people and needs of their respective communities. He mentioned that one county in Texas has 30 Local Emergency Planning Committees. He reviewed several ideas and projects which were presented at the conference by other LEPC representatives, and suggested that for 2008 Union County LEPC focus its efforts on increasing community awareness and emergency preparedness education. He would like to meet with representatives of the School Board to discuss ideas for implementing emergency preparedness education with school children that could then be taken home to their parents. Karen Kirk will try to arrange this meeting.

It would be helpful for the LEPC to have its own logo, which could be used on all printed material, to aid in quick and authoritative recognition. Mayor Larry Lay said that Union County already has a logo and we could use that as a basis for developing one for the LEPC.

The Union County Health Department has volunteered to bring refreshments for the January meeting.

Those attending were Bob Swisher (Chairman), Andrew Reed (Vice Chairman), Jill Jones (Secretary), Richard Evans (U.C. Times), Linda Hensley (ETRO), Karen Kirk, Rebecca Mills (Sunbridge Health Care), Larry Lay (Mayor), Amanda Mason, Sue Monroe, Charles Turner (UCHD), Sarah Nicley (Big Ridge St.

Park), Pat O'Brien (Med. Director UCEMS), Pat Sexton (Cooke Mortuary), Bob Swabe (TEMA), Shirley Cox (Alder Springs Church)

The next LEPC meeting will be held at 10 AM January 10th, 2008 at the Union County Court House in the small court room.